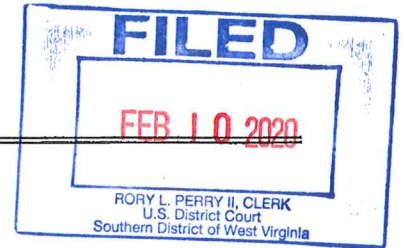


AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of West Virginia

United States of America

v.

NEDELTCHO VLADIMIROV

Defendant(s)

Case No.

2:20-mj-00013

SEALED

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of October 2017 to January 28, 2020 in the county of Kanawha in the
Southern District of West Virginia, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

18 U.S.C. 1956(a)(1)(A)
 18 U.S.C. 1957(a)

Offense Description

Promotion money laundering
 Engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified
 unlawful activity

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Terry Hedrick, Special Agent USSS

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date:

Feb. 3, 2020

Judge's signature

City and state: Charleston, West Virginia

Dwane L. Tinsley, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

2:20-mj-00013

NEDELTCHO VLADIMIROV

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

1. Since approximately December 2018, the United States Secret Service, the West Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, and the South Charleston Police Department (SCPD), together with Organized Retail Crimes (ORC) investigators from Kroger, CVS Pharmacy (CVS), and Target Corporation (Target), have been investigating NEDELTCHO VLADIMIROV (hereinafter "VLADIMIROV") for violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 (mail fraud), 1343 (wire fraud), 1349 (conspiracy), 1956-1957 (money laundering), and 2314 (transfer of stolen goods). These violations arise from VLADIMIROV's operation of a fraudulent scheme involving the interstate shipment of stolen goods.

2. As part of the scheme, VLADIMIROV has enlisted a crew of "boosters" who steal the merchandise from local retail stores and sell the stolen merchandise to VLADIMIROV, who then sells the stolen merchandise online marketplaces such as eBay at a higher price. Boosters usually have very specific items in mind when perpetrating

their schemes; usually driven at the direction of a fencing operation. Heavily targeted items tend to be those that are in high demand and of a high value relative to their size, ease of theft and profitability on the secondary market. Many of the known boosters are drug users addicted to controlled substances, who use the money received from VLADMIROV to support their drug habits.

3. In November 2018, a CVS store in Hurricane, West Virginia, was impacted by a booster targeting Prevagen memory pills, which is an item commonly stolen and re-sold in fencing operations. Based on this information, a notice advising law enforcement and retail partners in the local area to "be on the lookout" (BOLO) for the subject was issued. Target Market Investigator Nicholas Niehaus (MI Niehaus) later contacted CVS Pharmacy ORC Manager Jose Varela and stated the same subject booster from the BOLO had also impacted Target stores in the Southern District of West Virginia area for several months.

4. From on or about September 10, 2018 to on or about December 29, 2018, known boosters Jonathan Marcus (hereinafter "Marcus") and Steven Anderson (hereinafter "Anderson") impacted South Charleston and Barboursville Target stores on multiple occasions for an estimated loss to Target of \$1,500. Target Asset Protection ultimately identified the booster through an apprehension of Steven Anderson. Anderson was known to travel with

Jonathan Marcus, who had also been identified through an apprehension.

5. During the booster interview, Marcus indicated to MI Niehaus that the two men would take the stolen merchandise to a local fencer known only as "Ned," who was later identified as NEDELTCO VLADIMIROV. Based on information developed in the interview with Marcus and by investigators subsequent to the interview, it is believed that VLADIMIROV has 15-20 drug users "boosting" for him. VLADIMIROV communicates with boosters by phone or electronic messaging service to provide lists of targeted items to the boosters. Following a theft, VLADIMIROV typically meets the booster at the Speedway convenience store and gas station located at 5296 Big Tyler Road, Charleston, West Virginia, which is 1.5 miles from the VLADIMIROV's residence. VLADIMIROV pays boosters anywhere from 10%-40% of the retail value of the stolen item.

6. In January 2019, MI Niehaus and ORC Manager Varela met with detectives with the SCPD. MI Niehaus and ORC Manager Varela provided detectives with the SCPD with the factual background of their investigation to that point, and the SCPD began their own investigation into prior retail theft arrests in their jurisdiction. The SCPD determined that numerous arrest interviews were consistent and implicated VLADIMIROV as the suspected fencing operator in the South Charleston area.

7. On December 29, 2018, Marcus was apprehended at the South Charleston Target store for theft of two Nest Cameras valued at \$338.00. During the post-apprehension interview, Marcus indicated he was stealing the item to sell to VLADIMIROV, who buys stolen product from multiple subjects to resell online.

8. On September 11, 2019, Stephanie Miller (hereinafter "Miller") was apprehended at South Charleston, West Virginia, Target store for theft of a purse. During the interview, Miller indicated she steals items from area retail stores to sell to VLADIMIROV. Miller stated multiple subjects, herself included are sent lists from VLADIMIROV. Miller steals and sells the items to VLADIMIROV to support their drug habits.

9. Based on information received from retail investigators conducting interviews on theft subjects from Target located at 30 RHL Blvd South Charleston, West Virginia, investigators conducted surveillance on VLADIMIROV on three separate occasions: February 19-21, 2019, May 21-24, 2019, and October 22-24, 2019. Investigators observed VLADIMIROV shipping multiple packages a day at the post office located at the intersection of Doc Bailey and Big Tyler Rd in Cross Lanes, West Virginia, as well as the FedEx location in Cross Lanes, West Virginia.

10. VLADIMIROV was observed on three occasions by Target, CVS, and SCPD investigators meeting subjects to purchase items in his Black BMW bearing West Virginia License Plate NNJ878. On almost

every occasion, VLADIMIROV would travel to the U.S. Post Office located at 5306 Big Tyler Road, Charleston, West Virginia, in the early to mid-afternoon time. VLADIMIROV was seen meeting with known boosters and conducting transactions in public parking lots in Cross Lanes and Teas Valley, West Virginia. Detectives and Retail investigators have observed VLADIMIROV conduct multiple meetings with subjects known for theft activity in the Charleston, West Virginia area. VLADIMIROV conducts these transactions from inside his black 2004 BMW.

11. On October 23, 2019, surveillance was conducted of VLADIMIROV at the U.S. Post Office located at 5306 Big Tyler Road, Charleston, West Virginia. At 2:39 p.m., VLADIMIROV arrived at the post office in his black 2004 BMW bearing West Virginia license plate number NNJ878. VLADIMIROV entered the Post Office with several packages. At 2:41 p.m., VLADIMIROV exited the Post Office, returned to his vehicle, and left the property. Mobile surveillance was established at that time. At 2:57 p.m., VLADIMIROV arrived at the McDonald's restaurant located at 4175 WV-34, Hurricane, West Virginia. At 2:59 p.m., VLADIMIROV remained in the black 2004 BMW, and a white female with a yellow sweatshirt and black backpack was observed on foot walking from behind the McDonald's approached and then entered the passenger side of the vehicle.

12. After validating information received from theft suspects and confidential informants provided by the SCPD and Putnam County Sheriff's Office, investigators contacted the eBay Investigations Unit in an attempt to identify the eBay account being used by VLADIMIROV. Investigators provided eBay with known identifiers of VLADIMIROV and were able to identify an active eBay account under his control: nedined. Based on these findings, investigators requested all transaction/sales data for the account from October 30, 2017 to October 29, 2019.

13. Review of the items being sold by VLADIMIROV on eBay include a multitude of categories: vitamins, over-the-counter medications, personal care items, electronics, pet-related items, tools, kitchen products, toys, RING doorbell systems, and home care items, among others.

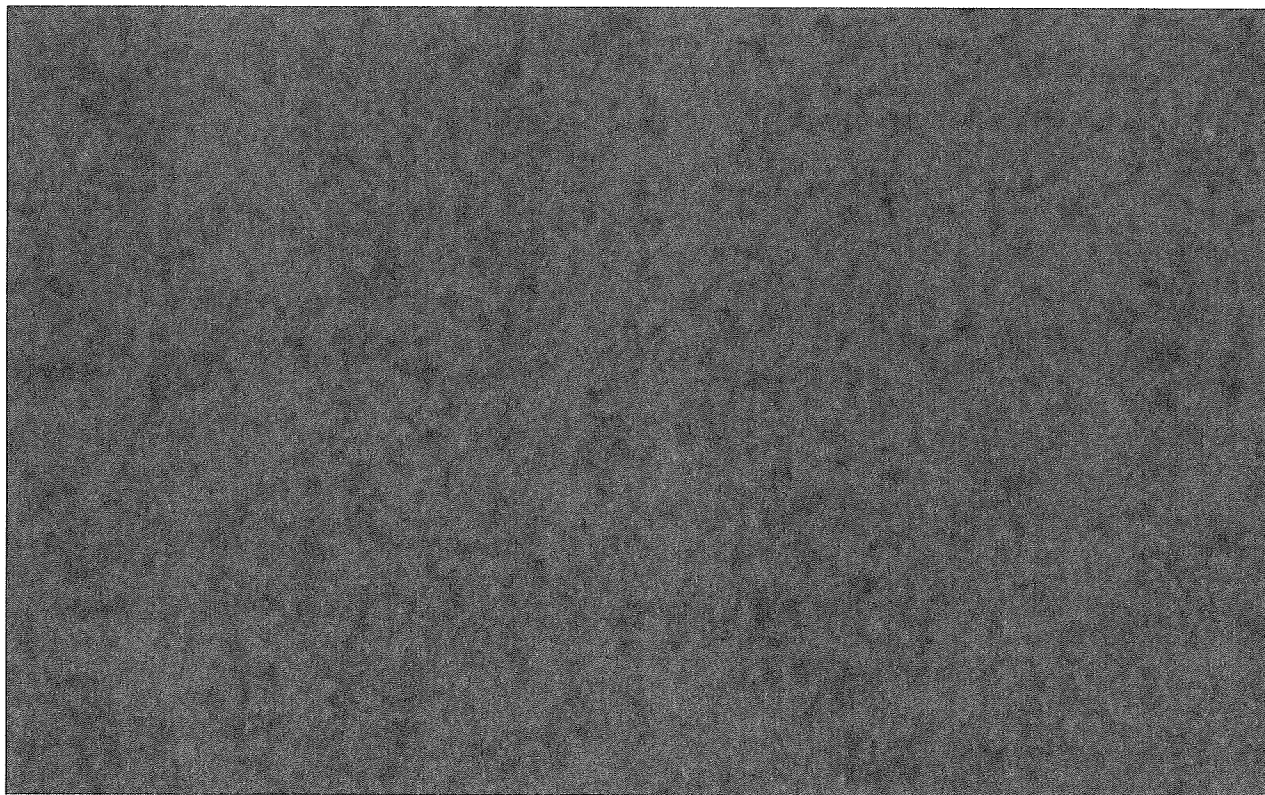
14. From October 30, 2017 to October 29, 2019, 3,676 items were sold on eBay by VLADIMIROV to buyers throughout both the United States and internationally. \$369,818.62 in merchandise was sold by VLADIMIROV during this timeframe.

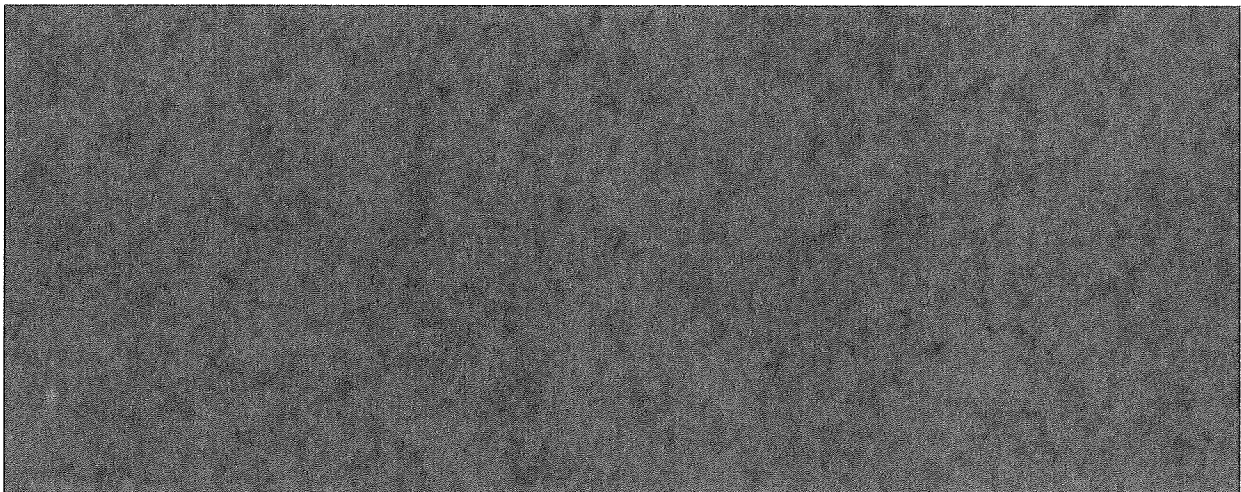
15. Most recently, an updated request for information was completed for eBay listing data from January 22, 2019 to January 22, 2020. In that time, VLADIMIROV listed and sold 1,761 items. During that time frame, VLADIMIROV's eBay sales totaled \$200,897.23.

16. Investigators have analyzed VLADIMIROV'S eBay account and were able to correlate reports of stolen items with items listed on VLADIMIROV's eBay account within days of theft offenses. Utilizing shortage inventory counts, items missing from Target, CVS, and Kroger stores were identified as being listed for sale or already sold on VLADIMIROV's account.

17. Investigators have continued to monitor known theft reports and can correlate theft incidents by subjects known to sell to VLADIMIROV with exact items being listed on VLADIMIROV's eBay account.

18. As of January 23, 2020, VLADIMIROV has over 3,404 items listed for sale on his eBay account.





20. On January 23, 2020, Confidential Informant 18-8400-009 (CI), also known as "John," made a controlled phone call to VLADIMIROV. The CI told VLADIMIROV that he had two Phillips Norelco electric razors from Target, and a meeting was set up at the Speedway parking lot at 5296 Big Tyler Rd, Charleston, West Virginia. TFO K.A. Davis with the Violent Crime and Drug Task Force West drove the CI to the meeting location. VLADIMIROV arrived on scene in his black 2004 BMW, and the CI got into the passenger side of the vehicle with him. VLADIMIROV looked at the items and paid the CI \$40. The CI then exited the vehicle, reentered the undercover vehicle with TFO Davis. The CI delivered the U.S. currency to TFO Davis and was debriefed.

21. On January 28, 2020, TFO Davis, acting in an undercover capacity, made a controlled phone call to VLADIMIROV. TFO Davis claimed to be friends with "John" and told VLADIMIROV that he had a RING doorbell. VLADIMIROV agreed to meet TFO Davis at the Speedway parking lot at 5296 Big Tyler Rd, Charleston, West

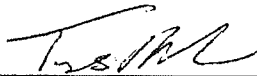
Virginia. VLADIMIROV arrived on scene in his black 2004 BMW, and TFO Davis entered the vehicle with him. TFO Davis produced the stolen Ring door bell system and stated, "I don't know how much I get can get for this." VLADIMIROV then used his mobile electronic device to look up the item on eBay and told TFO Davis he could pay him \$35. TFO Davis agreed. TFO Davis then told VLADIMIROV that he wanted to make more money and asked what items VLADIMIROV wanted. VLADIMIROV stated that the more expensive the item the more TFO Davis would get paid. VLADIMIROV indicated that he was looking for Apple products like iPad Pro's.

22. On January 29, 2020, TFO Davis, acting in an undercover capacity, made a controlled phone call to VLADIMIROV. TFO Davis told VLADIMIROV that he had some more items to sell. VLADIMIROV agreed to meet TFO Davis at the Speedway parking lot at 5296 Big Tyler Rd, Charleston, West Virginia. VLADIMIROV arrived on scene in his black 2004 BMW, and TFO Davis entered the vehicle with him. TFO Davis produced the stolen tooth brushes and stated "I got these from CVS and the tag on the shelf said they were \$150.00." VLADIMIROV then became very suspicious and asked to see TFO Davis's phone. VLADIMIROV asked what kind of phone it was, and TFO Davis responded that he did not know because it was a phone his mom gave him and it is on her plan. VLADIMIROV then asked to see the phone. TFO Davis handed VLADIMIROV the

phone. VLADIMIROV then inspected it by examining the call history and text messages as well as cycling through the applications. VLADIMIROV then closed all of the applications running on the phone, which cancelled the covert recording application that was recording the controlled sale. VLADIMIROV then told TFO Davis that he did not know if he wanted the electric toothbrushes because he sells all the merchandise on eBay, and other eBay listings had the item listed at \$35.00. After some deliberation, VLADIMIROV decided that he could give TFO Davis \$30 for the electric tooth brushes. TFO Davis then stated that he would call VLADIMIROV again tomorrow, and VLADIMIROV agreed that would be fine. No audio or video of this controlled sale was obtained due to technical difficulties.

Further your affiant sayeth naught.

Dated: Charleston, West Virginia
February 3rd, 2020



TERRY HEDRICK
SPECIAL AGENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Sworn to before me on this
3rd day of February, 2020



DWANE L. TINSLEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE